REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended.

No claims have been amended. Claims 1-30 and 42-49 were cancelled without prejudice.

No new claims have been added. Therefore, claims 31-41 are presented for examination.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection

Claims 31-41 and 45-49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as being

anticipated by Hammersley, U.S. Patent No. 6,618,783 ("Hammersley").

Hammersley discloses "a method for a first processor that controls I/O traffic of *a*

first PCI bus to acquire and relinquish control of *a second PCI bus* when a second

processor for doing the same becomes inoperative." (col. 8, lines 13-17; emphasis added)

The two systems each include their own PCI bus 124(a) and 124(b). (see Figure 2, refs.

124(a) and (b)) Hammersley further discloses "a *switch-over detection module (not*

shown) that monitors the "life signs" of coupled CPUs . . . the functions of the detection

module will be handled by software such as HP's MC/ServiceGuard . . . other

software/hardware that can provide similar functions could be used instead" (col. 4, lines

64-67 to col. 5, lines 1-3; emphasis added).

In contrast, claim 1, in pertinent part, recites "the first host system and the second

host system each include a controller . . . having a fault detection module . . . to receive a

notification from the fault detection hardware indicating a fault of either the first host

system or the second host system, wherein when the fault occurs, the host system that

failed suspends control of and disconnects from the bus, and the host system that is still

active takes control of the plurality of peripheral devices coupled to the host that failed"

(emphasis added). Hammersley does not teach or reasonably suggest a fault detection

module to receive notification from the fault detection hardware indicating a fault and when the fault occurs, the host system that failed suspends control of and disconnects from the bus, and the host system that is still active takes control as recited by claim 1. Hammersley's *switch-over detection module (not shown) that monitors the "life signs" of coupled CPUs* is not the same as the fault detection module of claim 31. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claim 31 and its dependent claims.

Claim 37 contains limitations similar to those of claim 31. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 37 and its dependent claims.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of the claims is hereby earnestly requested.

Invitation for a Telephone Interview

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Request for an Extension of Time

Applicant respectfully petitions for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension.
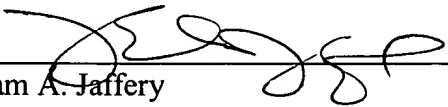
Charge our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: __August 17, 2006__   _____
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